Non-Availability of Insecticides to Farmers

†910. SHRIMATI KUMKUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that farmers at several places in the country are agitating due to non-availability of insecticides to them;

(b) if so, at which places;

(c) what measures Government are taking to make the insecticides available to farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are no reports of agitation due to non-availability of insecticides.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Red Soil Disease of Coconut Plants

911. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether red soil disease in coconut plants has been reported in Andhra Pradesh, especially in Srikakulam;

(b) if so, the reasons analysed for the disease;

(c) the action taken to seek opinion of experts for remedial measures in this regard; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of remedial steps suggested by the experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information received from the State Government, the red soil disease in coconut has not been reported in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Agricultural Reforms

912. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to introduce new agricultural reforms;

(b) if so, whether there is no shortage of foodgrains in the country at present, and there is excess stock, which has created problems for storage;

(c) whether this excess of foodgrains has necessitated corporate management in agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the agriculture sector, to meet the situation of excess foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken several major initiatives in the recent past to accelerate the pace of agricultural development.

(b) to (d) The Government has announced a National Policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains to reduce storage and transit losses at farm and commercial level, and to modernize the system of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in India. The Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations have taken up measures for augmenting storage capacity and created capacity of 2.78 lakh tonnes (up to December, 2001) against the target of 3.61 lakh tonnes (2001-02). A credit linked subsidy scheme for construction of cold storages